

Buluwai Stories

Prior to Tindale's expedition, a list of residents of Mona Mona was collected and now stored at the Queensland State Archives. The document is dated March 2, 1937.

- Of the residents at that time, only 65 people had been born on country, ie. pre 1913 when the mission opened.
- Of those, 34 people had come to the mission at children 1 – 15 years, either with their families or as orphans.
- Another 21 people of those born on country had come to the mission as adults, ie. 16 – 40 years.
- The Elders numbered only 10, those who had already lived most of their lives on country and came to the mission as 40+ year olds. This group includes surviving Elders of unspecified ages.
- Of the 10 Aboriginal people who were born, raised and lived on country only 2 were men.
- One of the men was Buluwai Ancestral Patriarch Tji:auwin 'Toby Brim' and his wife Annie is counted as one of the 8 women survivors of the Frontier Wars Era who made it safely to Mona Mona Mission.

Mona Mona 1937

This report gives a list of residents of Mona Mona in 1937. It is taken from Bundle A/58861 at the Queensland State Archives and the specific report is titled

A Visit of Inspection to Palm Island, Yarrabah and Mona Mona Aboriginal Settlements by Sir Raphael Cilento and dated February to March 1937. This report is on open access.

The table of names from which this document was produced is dated March 2, 1937

MONAMONA-----ABORIGINAL STATION	
<u>Postal address.</u>	Monamona Mission, via Cairns, Queensland.
<u>Denomination.</u>	Seventh-day Adventist.
<u>Supported by.</u>	Queensland Government appropriation of £500 and an additional £30 for blanket issue, otherwise by the Australian Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Sydney, New South Wales. This station is largely self-supporting, all funds go to Union Conference and the Mission is run on an Annual budget.
<u>Superintendent.</u>	Rev. L.A. Burgess.
<u>Medical officer.</u>	None resident but there is a qualified nurse, Mrs S.J. Ward. Dr D.L. Johnson, Periodical Visitor, Health Dept. (Lab. of Microbiology and Pathology) Brisbane, Queensland attends and advises on cases of leprosy etc.
<u>Teacher.</u>	R. Collett, trained state school teacher; Victoria, in charge of white school and Headmaster of Native school Miss J. Doble, assistant for native school.
<u>Food supervisor.</u>	Mrs H. Rowland.
<u>Food sources.</u>	Ration system. Fishing, small amount of game and a number of natives own garden plots but these do not add materially to food sources.
<u>Rainfall record.</u>	Ranges from 90 to 100 inches; chiefly in summer.
<u>Number of houses.</u>	20 houses and five camps. Also separate dormitories for boys (ages 6-14 years) and girls (6 years until marriage).
<u>Type of house.</u>	Wood on piles, with shingle roofs, unpainted. Usual size 15ft x 12ft.
<u>Cost of houses.</u>	Timber is cut at Mission; Superintendent estimates £18 for a 2 room house.

BELOW AND RIGHT: MONAMONA - ABORIGINAL STATION Norman B. Tindale (SA Museum)

<u>Population.</u>	260 with very little variation and few nomads.
<u>Tribes represented.</u>	Tjapukai, Muluritji, Idindji, Buluwandji, and Koko-jelandji. Also a few Djirubal, Barbarum, Ngatjan, Djankun (Koko-mutju), Koko-njunkulu (Tjumbundji), Koko-bididji, Koko-bujundji, Koko-imudji, Koko-mini, Koko-wara, Koko-patun, Wakaman, Jangga, Kutjal, Dagalang, Arap (Walngam)

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<u>Sanitary arrangements.</u>	Latrine pits (2 per 10 houses).
<u>Water supply.</u>	Drinking water pumped from Flagg Creek by electric pump. One general tap for the natives use. All bathing and washing done in Flagg Creek.
<u>Station site.</u>	On open forested slopes above flood plain of Flagg Creek, riverine jungle is present along banks. Gardens are situated on level, grass-covered sandy alluvial patches, the soil of which becomes exhausted after several years of cultivation and leaching. The lower portions of the site is subjected to occasional heavy floodings.
<u>Period of first European contact.</u>	Atherton Tableland first explored about 1860. Railway line put through in 1893; previously the natives were only in intermittent contact with Europeans.
<u>Formation of institution.</u>	Commenced Sept. - Nov. 1913 under direction of Rev. J.L. Branford. Natives were sent to the site by order of the Minister of Home and Health in 1914.
<u>Date of school opening.</u>	1917
<u>Grades taught.</u>	Grades 1-6 under trained teachers. Between 1924-1926 no trained teacher available and grades 1-6 were taught.
<u>School attendance.</u>	Compulsory from the dormitories.
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Honouring our neighbouring tribes, clans and families: Djabugay (north), Yirrgay (east), Muluridji (west), Ngatjan (south west) and Yidindji (south east) with whom we share Dreamtime stories of creator god Bulurru, ancestral lore, kinship and landscape boundaries.

We wish to advise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visitors that this website and links may contain images and voices of people who are deceased. Buluwai Indigenous Corporation (BIC) respectfully acknowledges the First Peoples' and Custodians of the lands, waters and seas on which we work and live. We honour our Elders, past, present and emerging.